

IN THE DRAWINGS

Drawings Figures 6 and 7 have been amended so that elements 21 and 34 are identified as "LDPC OR TURBO CODE ENCODING UNIT" and "LDPC OR TURBO CODE DECODING UNIT", respectively. Support for the drawing amendments is found, for example, at page 16, lines 3-9 of the specification. No new matter has been added.

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended during the interview conducted on March 13, 2008.

In light of the above amendments and remarks to follow, entry of this amendment and reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8-9 and 11 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada (U.S. Patent 6,996,764) in view of Saito (U.S. Patent 4,866,692) or Uchiyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,175,545). In addition, although the Action states in the first paragraph of item 2 that claims 1, 8-9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over Zafer et al. (article entitled "Performance Comparison of Selected DC-Free Codes for PR1-Equalized Magnetic Recording Channels") in view of Saito (U.S. Patent 4,866,692) or Uchiyama (U.S. Patent No. 5,175,545), it is believed that the intended rejection of claims 1, 8-9 and 11 is under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zafer et al. in view of Saito or Uchiyama, and the response is made based on such belief.

The independent claims have been amended to include the limitations of previously canceled dependent claim 5. Specifically, the claims now recite that the encoded data "is an information series encoded by a turbo code" and the combined detecting and decoding is of "equalized, turbo code encoded data". (See specification, for example, at page 16, line 3 to page 18, line 5). As discussed during the Examiner interview, the arrangements for reproducing data in Yamada or Zafer, which have been cited by the Examiner, do not disclose a method or system which allows for the detecting and decoding operations to be performed together on equalized, turbo code encoded data as

in the presently amended claims. Applicants, therefore, respectfully assert that the cited disclosure of Yamada or Zafer, when combined with Saito or Uchiyama, do not result in the combination as presently claimed.

Accordingly, for at least this reason, Yamada or Zafer, alone or in combination with Saito or Uchiyama, fail to meet this limitation and the rejected claims should now be allowed.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that he/she telephone applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which he might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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